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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 658

By Scroggs

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Jim O'Brien on being named the Germantown Lions Club's "Citizen of the Year" for 2001.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those outstanding citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Mr. Jim O'Brien, who was recently named "Citizen of the Year" for 2001 by the Germantown Lions Club; and

WHEREAS, a native of Baltimore, Maryland, Jim O'Brien has lived in the Germantown community of Shelby County for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. O'Brien, an outstanding scholar, received his formal education at St. Charles College in Catonsville, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from St. Charles College, Jim O'Brien volunteered for service in the United States Marine Corps and bravely served his country in the Second World War and the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, after his distinguished service in the United States Marine Corps, Mr. O'Brien pursued a career in the insurance industry with Pan American Life Insurance Company,

where he became the national annual leading salesman and a member of the Million Dollar Roundtable; and

WHEREAS, Mr. O'Brien eventually managed his own insurance agency and successfully expanded his business to represent five out-of-state mortgage companies, assisting them in property preservation, mortgagor services, bankruptcies, and foreclosures; and

WHEREAS, Jim O' Brien served in the insurance industry with acumen and alacrity for many years, earning the respect of his peers and clients alike for his unquestionable integrity as a businessman; and

WHEREAS, Mr. O'Brien is an integral part of the Germantown community, serving the people of Germantown in several positions with various organizations, including meritorious service as Vice-President of the Germantown Heights Homeowners Association; a member of the City Parks and Recreation Commission; Co-Chairman of the Family Fourth Celebration, Chairman of the Germantown Christmas Parade; and the director of Germantown's Veterans Day observances; and

WHEREAS, Jim O'Brien's remarkable leadership abilities are further evidenced through his association with the Germantown American Legion Post No. 250. After holding all the elected offices in the post, Jim O'Brien was elected Commander of the Germantown American Legion Post, which then had a membership of only seventeen; within one year, Mr. O'Brien's outstanding leadership increased the membership of Post No. 250 to 97 members; and

WHEREAS, during his exceptional five-year tenure as Commander, Mr. O'Brien was responsible for the formation of Post No. 250's Color Guard and Honor Guard, at no cost to the post's members, and a total increase in membership to over 150 people; and

WHEREAS, Mr. O'Brien's exceptional efforts were recognized by his fellow veterans when he was elected the Legion's Department of Tennessee Commander in 1995 and 1996; he also served as Chairman of the State American Legion Convention in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Mr. O'Brien is actively involved with Toastmasters International; he was the 1,451st recipient of the world-wide designation of Distinguished Toastmaster; Mr. O'Brien also served as the District Governor of Toastmaster's International for West Tennessee, Northern Mississippi, and the State of Arkansas in 1981-1982; and

WHEREAS, Jim O' Brien has been essential in the formation of numerous civic organizations, including the Pacesetters Club, of which he was a charter member; and

WHEREAS, Jim O'Brien is also very active in the lives of the young people of Germantown; he has sponsored and represented the American Legion at the Jr. ROTC at Brownsville High School; served as a counselor and chaperon for his church's junior and senior high youth group; and helped coach pre-teen girls' softball teams; and

WHEREAS, Mr. O'Brien has also provided guidance to many of the newly graduated nurses from the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing as a chaperon; and

WHEREAS, Mr. O'Brien is active in maintaining and advancing the patriotism that is such an integral part of our heritage, speaking to civic, church and school groups on Pearl Harbor Day; Mr. O'Brien provides the color guard and directs a memorial service every month for the families of deceased veterans at the VA Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee and was also instrumental in the installation of a flagpole and a bronze plaque honoring the Veterans of Germantown; and

WHEREAS, he has won numerous awards and honors for his outstanding service to his community including being named a Germantown Hero in 2000, and being appointed a Tennessee Ambassador of Goodwill by Governor Lamar Alexander; and

WHEREAS, Jim O'Brien epitomizes the spirit, commitment and volunteerism that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Jim O'Brien for his dedication to the good people of Germantown and to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Mr. Jim O'Brien on being named the Germantown Lions Club's "Citizen of the Year" for 2001 and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.